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Identical letters dated 17 January 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

It is my pleasure to forward to your kind attention the letter of H.E. Mr. Abdurrahman Mohamed Shalgam, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, containing the response on what was mentioned in the letter of the Group of Experts in charge of assisting Security Council Committee established pursuant to Security Council Resolution number 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, along with a synopsis of the continuous efforts that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has exerted to help resolve the problem of Darfur.

I would be very grateful if Your Excellency would circulate the enclosed letter as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ahmed A. **Own**
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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Annex to the identical letters dated 17 January 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

We in the Great Jamahiriya have examined the letter of the Panel of Experts assigned to assist the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, in which it is stated, inter alia, that the armed movements in the Darfur region acquire arms, ammunition and other military equipment from inside Libyan territory and that specific entities in Libya provide leaders of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) with sums of money.

With reference to the content of the passages in the letter of the Panel of Experts, we should like to inform you of the following:

1. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has provided no arms, ammunition or military equipment of any type to the armed movements in the Darfur region or to the other parties to the conflict, nor any equipment of military use, since it is our belief that the best means of resolving the problems in the Darfur region is to support the peace efforts.

2. Special Libyan forces are amassed on the joint borders with the Sudan and Chad and have been supplied with all the necessary equipment in terms of vehicles, aircraft and helicopters for monitoring any suspicious movements and countering any attempt to smuggle arms. The Libyan authorities are committed to coordinating with the authorities in both Chad and the Sudan in order to take stern action against any elements with proven involvement in smuggling activities, given the danger posed to our national security by smuggling.

3. Since the crisis first erupted in Darfur, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya became aware its continuation would have adverse consequences, not only for the neighbouring States of the Sudan but also for the entire African continent. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya consequently took the initiative to call for meetings of popular figures, the civilian administration, local chiefs and elders to be convened in the interest of achieving social peace and creating an environment conducive to the implementation of any peace agreement that might be reached through the Abuja forum. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya also instigated two African Union summit meetings in order to address the issue of Darfur, in addition to which it has taken part in all of the meetings held for a peaceful settlement of the crisis and effectively participated in the work of the Joint Commission to monitor implementation of the ceasefire in Darfur. Annexed hereto is a document summarizing our demonstrable efforts, which have helped substantially to eliminate tension and promote genuine endeavours to achieve peace and security in the region.

(*Signed*) Abdurrahman Mohamed **Shalgam**
Secretary of the General People's Committee
for External Liaison and International Cooperation

Enclosure

Document summarizing the efforts of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to assist in resolving the Darfur problem

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has demonstrated continuing efforts in seeking to resolve the Darfur problem. As part of these efforts, it has hosted several meetings at non-governmental levels in the Darfur region, as well as two African summit meetings aimed at resolving the crisis. The following points contain further clarification of these efforts:

1. During 2004 and 2005, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya hosted a number of meetings aimed at helping to resolve the Darfur problem. Bringing together numerous figures from Darfur, the first meeting was held during the period 8-23 September 2004. The second meeting involving the civilian administration was held in the first week of January 2005. In May 2005, the third round of the dialogue between the region's civilian administration and armed movements was held, culminating in the issuance of the first and second Tripoli declarations, both of which helped to reduce the sharp tension in the region and consequently opened up routes and paths for trade and grazing activities there.

2. The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya hosted two African summit meetings on the Darfur problem. The first was held on 17 October 2004 and the second on 16 May 2005, each issuing a declaration comprising resolutions aimed at preparing the right conditions for a political solution to the problem in order to establish firm bases for security and stability in Darfur and throughout the Sudan.

3. Libya participated in every round of the Sudanese negotiations on the conflict in Darfur. As a facilitator in these negotiations, it played a part in the rapprochement of views among the parties and in their signature of two protocols on enhancing the security situation and improving the humanitarian situation. It also helped in reaching the agreement on the Declaration of Principles for the resolution of the Sudanese conflict, which was signed during the fifth round of the Abuja negotiations. In addition, it participated in all meetings of the Ceasefire Commission emanating from the N'Djamena Agreement signed in April 2004.

4. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya signed a 10-year memorandum of understanding with the World Food Programme in order to facilitate the passage of relief to the inhabitants of the Darfur region, thus providing a corridor for approximately 4,000 tons of weekly supplies to the victims of the crisis. Under the terms of this memorandum, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya also undertook to provide free storage for these aid supplies, exempt them from customs charges and offer preferential transport tariffs, thereby enabling the provision of thousands of tons of humanitarian aid to the inhabitants of the region and the refugees on the borders with Chad.